NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES

Official Bulletin of the New Zealand Library Association

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WHO DOES THE WORK?

AT the Wellington Conference of the Association held in 1937, Branches and a Section were granted affiliation. There is still room for more such bodies. Although the Association is to move into its own offices, and although a typist has been appointed, there has in fact been very little relief to the voluntary headquarters offices. The decentralization policy has made it possible for the bulk of the work to be done by the Branches and Sections contemplated by the constitution, and by various Standing Committees and committees *ad hoc* set up by Conference or by Council. Actually these committees have in the last few years produced a tremendous volume of useful work. Many reports have been mainly of an investigating nature, but many have pointed the way for the future, and some have marked a definite step forward in some phases of library organization.

Not always have the Branches and Sections fulfilled quite so useful a function, and remits before the recent Conference in Palmerston North indicated that the Branches themselves were by no means satisfied with the position. Most unfortunately it proved impossible to provide time for a discussion on the functions of Branches and Sections, and accordingly the guiding light which had been sought was not switched on. The matter now remains in the hands of the Branches and Sections themselves.

In May it is expected that a Schools Section will come into being, and arrangements have been made for officers of the Association to address teacher-librarians attending the educational conference in that month. The functions of that Section will not be hard to define, but those of an ordinary Branch require some thought. Experience has shown that those branch activities which are of a social nature and ask little of the individual member are of less actual value to the Association than those which concentrate on the execution of particular types of work. There is nothing to prevent Branches setting up standing committees and committees for a particular purpose just as the Council and Conference of the Association do themselves. The whole Branch or the Branch executive could then act as a co-ordinating body and decide what, if any, approach was to be made to Conference or to Council.

This procedure has in some cases already been adopted and frequently with success. It would appear that the best way to ensure the success of the working of a Branch would be to see that every member had his own particular job, some work which he could do for the advancement of library work in New Zealand, so that the committees, instead of finding it difficult to fill the evenings set apart for Branch work would find it difficult to confine the business to the time allotted. This has been the experience of the major body. While there was comparatively little work being done comparatively little interest was being taken in the organization: now that we are well embarked on the full tide of our upward progress, interest is phenomenal. Affiliated organizations can help the central body to an immense extent, and it is hoped that during the coming year much of the material which is placed on the Council Conference table for discussion will emanate from such bodies.

If the bulk of the Association's work becomes spread to an ever-increasing extent throughout the country, the Association will become more and more a part of the cultural life of the Dominion, through the institutions which it serves.

TRAINING FOR LIBRARIES.

"In accordance with the Government's decision to have trained librarians available when it puts its scheme for library service into operation next year," states a Sydney newspaper, "the Public Library is setting up a school for librarians."

A permanent school for librarians is being established by the Public Library of New South Wales at the request of the Government, and is to commence immediately, so that trained librarians will be available in January, 1940, when the Government's new policy for library service in the country will come into operation.

This will open up a new career for young men and women.

Municipal and shire councils throughout the State are to be helped to establish and maintain libraries. Several councils have already given assurances that they will adopt the new scheme, and they will be needing trained and certificated librarians, who will rank with health inspectors and engineers as professional officers in local government service.

Students must have good education. Knowledge of special subjects, such as economics, science and agriculture, is always an advantage. A Leaving Certificate is always a minimum. In addition, good address and a practical turn of mind are advantages.

There will be special training, for not less than a year, in all branches of library work, including readers' advising and library organisation, cataloguing and classification, book selection and bibliography.

Applications can be made now for admission to the school, and a more detailed statement of conditions can be obtained from the Principal Librarian at the Sydney Public Library.

MR. CITIZEN TALKS WITH LIBRARIANS.

By H. C. D. Somerset, M.A. (Director, Feilding Community Centre).

The Annual Conference of the New Zealand Library Association differs from most other conferences in that while it is attended mainly by experts (and laymen in full agreement with the experts), its discussions are of the utmost importance to the man in the street. Apart from putting its own house in order, the Association has a missionary duty to perform—and this is no less than the re-education of the New Zealand public in its general attitude towards books and libraries. In nearly every discussion throughout the recent Conference the educational need was stressed. But to talk about it in Conference and to agree whole-heartedly is something; to carry the process a stage further is another matter.

The Conference at Palmerston North was unique in that it marked the first attempt to reach a large audience by means of radio. Mr. C. W. Collins, of Canterbury University College Library, undertook the preparation of the script and the organising of half-an-hour's broadcast—no easy matter as those who have attempted it know. The result was very gratifying; listeners have said that the argument *via* the ether was clear and convincing.

The form in which Mr. Collins cast his story was a modified radio play entitled "Mr. Citizen talks with the Librarians." The plot was a simple one. The actor holding the centre of the etheric stage was a composite character well-known to librarians, one Mr. Citizen, alias Mr. Average Man. How he came to be lured into the Library Conference was not disclosed in the play; but there he was, talking to four librarians on the subject of books. And as he talked he revealed to the astute listener much of his past. Apparently he was a bright lad at school, anxious to get on, interested in reading about ships and astronomy and all that—just the type of boy that leaves school every year. But he got a job that began to take up most of his time—and so his interest in books began to wane. And now that he has mastered his job we meet him as the "good citizen," willing to pay his rates for parks and gardens, even to contribute through his taxes to free milk in schools—but he cannot see the need for free libraries. He never goes near one himself and his only contact is through the office-boy whom he sends along occasionally to copy out a newspaper paragraph. He does not belong to a library because he believes that they contain books only to kill time—one of the things he has no desire to kill. It comes as a surprise to him to learn that libraries have books on all manner of subjects and that librarians are equipped to give him every possible help in the

selection of books that will lead to a fuller and more satisfying life. By the time the librarians have finished with him he has been shown how libraries cater very fully for business men; he has learned something of the working of the Country Library Service and has had explained to him the help that a complete National Library service could render. Mr. Citizen leaves the ether and comes down to earth fully convinced that there is a good case for free public libraries.

After the broadcast, which was made from St. Andrew's Hall, Palmerston North, by way of a land line through Station 2YA, Wellington, the audience in the hall made many valuable suggestions, the most useful being that a plot with a dramatic climax might have been introduced. The idea is one that is capable of much development and it is to be hoped that Mr. Collins may be persuaded to produce another script next year. He is to be congratulated on conveying so clearly the policy of the Library Association in the short space of half-an-hour. The thanks of the Association are also due to the Director of Broadcasting and his officers who gave every encouragement and assistance to those taking part in the broadcast.

The various parts were taken by Miss A. K. Elliot, Messrs. C. W. Collins, G. T. Alley and H. C. D. Somerset. The part of the citizen was taken by Mr. W. Scollay of the Wellington Public Libraries.

SCHOOLS SECTION.

On Tuesday, 9th May, at 8 p.m., in the Demonstration Hall of Electricity House, Cuba Street, Wellington, a meeting will be held at which teachers from the various educational conferences then being held in Wellington will be asked to attend. It is proposed that a Section more or less in the nature of a Schools Section of the London Library Association should come into being on that occasion and that it should be affiliated to the New Zealand Library Association in much the same way as the University and Research Section is already affiliated. The advantages of a separate Section are many. The need for a separate schools instructional bulletin, along very much the same lines as the instructional bulletin compiled by Mr. E. B. Ellerm for small municipal and similar libraries is very great. It could best be compiled with the aid of teacher-librarians, many of whom have received substantial assistance already from the Association. Standards should be worked out and would be of advantage in negotiating with the authorities, particularly with headmasters and school boards, for money. An approach from the library point of view, supported by library experience and quoted standards, would often be of assistance to teacher-librarians in asking for funds, equipment, etc. It is hoped that all members of the Association who know of teachers attending any of the educational conferences in May will do their best to bring the matter into prominence.

CONSTITUTION.

The question of incorporation of the Association is still under review and some sort of revision of the constitution will have to be undertaken at the same time. The last Conference of the Association showed that the present constitution has already disclosed some of its defects.

The constitution of the Library Association (London), is interesting, and in particular the rules governing the composition of Council. Bye-Law B1. reads as follows: "On and after the date of the Annual Election in 1929, the affairs of the Association shall be managed (subject to the control of the Annual and Special General Meetings) by a Council consisting of a President, three Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Legal Adviser, and not more than thirty Councillors, of whom six shall be from within a radius of thirty miles from Charing Cross, fifteen shall be from beyond that radius, three shall be Members nominated by Institutions, and a number not exceeding six, residing in any part of the British Isles, shall be elected as representatives of such Special Sections (see E8-16) of the Association as may be organized. To these shall be added all Past-Presidents who are willing to serve, except that any Past-President who does not attend Council meetings in two consecutive years shall no longer remain a member of the Council." Under Bye-Law B2, the Council has power to nominate up to twelve Honorary Vice-Presidents who are not to be members of the Council unless elected under Bye-Laws B3-B5. Bye-Law B3 gives power to the Council to fill vacancies caused by death or resignation for the remainder of the term by electing the candidate who had received the highest number of votes among the unsuccessful candidates in the division of the Council in which the vacancy had occurred. Bye-Law B4 sets out voting provisions. The President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Secretary and Honorary

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officers are to be nominated by the Council. Councillors are to be nominated by members. The representative or representatives of special sections are to be elected or nominated by the particular sections. The honorary auditors are to be nominated at the Annual Meeting by members who are not Councillors and elected by the members in Annual Meeting. Institution Councillors would be elected by the authority notified by the Council to nominate. Bye-Law B5 provide that at the Annual Election the Association elects one Vice-President, two London Councillors and five Country Councillors. The Vice-Presidents and Councillors so elected hold office for three years and are eligible for re-election. In addition not exceeding six Councillors to represent Special Sections are elected or nominated annually by special Sections. Council has power to arrange nominations for Sections in two or more divisions, if need be, to secure the necessary special representation, and has power to receive nominations for fewer than six candidates, should the special Sections of the Association not call for the full number. Council also has power to limit the number of nominations of members belonging to special Sections for election as London and Country Councillors if, in the opinion of the Council, such nominations are likely to lead to an unduly large representation of such Sections upon the Council.

The above is particularly interesting in view of the Conference proposals which, if they had been adopted, would have had the effect of giving more definite representation to Sectional interests. A Council composed something as follows might possibly suit the needs of the Association better than the present entirely elective body: A President, Past Presidents with seats on the Council, Vice-Presidents elected to retire in rotation at the end of a three year term, a Chairman of Council, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Secretary, one member to represent larger city libraries, one member to represent the smaller sized libraries, one member to represent university libraries, one member to represent free libraries, one member to represent assistants, one member to represent school libraries, one member to represent Government libraries, one member to represent the Country Library Service, one representative of the governing bodies of municipal libraries, one representative of the governing bodies of free libraries. In some of the above cases the representation might have to be increased from one to two, but on filling up the imaginary council it looks as though very little of the present strength of Council would be lost: two or three of the present councillors, being past presidents, would retain their seats without having to submit themselves for re-election from time to time, while there would be a good deal of competition for the other seats. It is interesting in the British constitution to see that Branches do not have direct representation, but that Sections do. This is no doubt wise. Sectional representation seems more suitable.

These are considerations which will have to be considered by the Legislation and Incorporation committees, which are to go carefully into the question of how best the Association should be governed, so as to be in a position to place before the next Conference of the Association proposals likely to find favour with the members for the future. The proposals also should be of such a kind that they are likely to find favour with the Government when it comes to the point of legislative incorporation. Any members of the Association who have given thought to the problems set out above are asked to communicate as soon as possible with Mr. C. S. Perry, c/o. Central Public Library, P.O. Box 1529, Wellington, C.1., convener of the Committees, so that their ideas may be considered when the questions are in issue.

BRANCHES AND SECTIONS.

CANTERBURY.

The Annual Meeting of the Canterbury Branch was held on Thursday evening, 30th March, at the Canterbury Public Library, with a moderate attendance. Officers for 1939-40 were elected as follows:—Chairman, Mr. A. Brettell; Deputy-Chairman, Mr. R. W. Flintoff; Honorary Secretary-Treasurer, Miss L. R. Callaway; Committee, Mrs. L. E. Rowlatt, Mrs. A. L. Wilson, Dr. J. Guthrie, Mr. E. J. Bell, Mr. C. W. Collins, Mr. W. H. Ford.

At the conclusion of the formal business, a talk was given by Miss G. Lilian Jeffreys, Assistant Librarian of Canterbury University College, about her experiences during eighteen months studying librarianship abroad. She spent an Academic year at the University of London School of Librarianship, followed by visits to libraries of all sorts and sizes in Great Britain and the United States. In England the librarian from New Zealand fond it quite inspiring to see the amount of what one might

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call "heavier reading" done by the general public in the rate supported "free" libraries. Reference departments in all parts of the country were almost always full to capacity, and the demand for non-fiction material was continuous. One of the aspects of library work which impressed Miss Jeffreys was the way in which children were shown how to use the library and its contents intelligently. In the United States, one of the most interesting features was the organisation of the Union Library Catalogue in Philadelphia, where Miss Jeffreys worked for a few weeks. This catalogue, which serves 165 libraries of all kinds in the metropolitan area, has been organised with remarkable speed, 4,000,000 cards having been produced in two years. This speed was made possible only through the use of mechanical devices, especially microphotography, and of the services of W.P.A. workers—clerical workers who are on government relief. Not only does this catalogue serve its purpose as a union location list, but it is also being used in the re-cataloguing of some of the contributing libraries, for the editorial work was based on the best of the contributed entries. Miss Jeffreys' last overseas library was the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. It was remarkable to see there how students, drawn from several differing races, shared the inspirational heritage common to them and to their American fellows, through a well organised and stimulating library.

WELLINGTON.

The Annual Meeting of the Branch was held in the Alexander Turnbull Library on March 15, the retiring President, Mr. C. R. H. Taylor, presiding over a good attendance. The Annual Report and financial statements were presented, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Hon. President, Mr. T. D. H. Hall; President, Mr. C. S. Perry; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. J. Gaudin, J. W. Heenan, H. G. Miller, J. Norrie, W. S. Wauchop and Dr. G. H. Scholefield; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. K. G. Mawson; Committee Members, Misses A. Denton, K. E. Harvey, J. W. Rawson, R. C. Reid and A. Woodhouse. Messrs. I. K. McGregor, W. W. Mason, C. R. H. Taylor and J. O. Wilson.

Mr. E. H. McCormick was the speaker for the evening, and addressed the meeting on the work of the National Historical Committee in preparing publications to celebrate the Centennial. The meeting concluded by members becoming the guests of Mr. W. S. Wauchop at supper.

GENERAL NEWS.

"N.Z.L.A. Information Exchange Sheet."

Council is considering the question of issuing a mimeographed "N.Z.L.A. Information Exchange Sheet" at short intervals, such as a week. This sheet would serve as a co-operative means of communication between the special libraries and large public libraries of the country, to save the writing of many separate letters. It would carry information of various kinds which would help libraries to co-operate in the building up and use of their collections; for example: (1) notable accessions and proposed purchases, to save unnecessary duplication elsewhere in New Zealand; (2) requests for location of various items, for inter-loan and to avoid buying when one copy is sufficient for the whole country; (3) requests for and offers of odd numbers and duplicate runs of periodicals, etc.; (4) bibliographical inquiries; (5) general information and questions of not wide enough interest to be printed in "NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES." This sheet would be in the first instance be sent out to the four main public and six university libraries, and such other libraries as desired it.

Will those interested in the project inform the Convener, N.Z.L.A. Standing Committee on Inter-Library Co-operation, care of the Library, Canterbury University College, Christchurch. There seems to be scope for such a means of communication as this; but its success will depend on the co-operation of all concerned.

Mrs. E. L. Christian.

It is with great regret that we record the retirement of Mrs. E. L. Christian who has been in the service of the Palmerston North Borough Council for a period of 16 years, for the larger part of which she has been in charge as librarian. Mrs. Christian followed her late husband in his work and was a well known figure at the Conferences of the Association. Her last appearance with us was at a seminar held during the Conference in her own city in February last.

Mrs. Christian's cheerful and kindly manner will be missed by all those who are her friends, and while wishing her every success in the future in whatever she undertakes, one must always have the added feeling that she has done work in Palmerston North the effect of which

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will be felt for very many years to come. For that work she deserves the greatest credit, and for herself our good wishes.

University of Otago.

Mr. John Harris, Librarian of the Otago University Library, has published an eight-page octavo cyclostyled guide to the University Library, consisting of a page about the libraries of the University of Otago, the hours, information about the University Library itself, means of finding a book, notes on subject catalogues, vertical file, borrowing privileges, reserves, journals, collections, inter-library loan, microfilm, important regulations and an outline of classification with locations. It is interesting to note that the installation of a microfilm reader is expected shortly in the library.

Wilson Bulletin.

Some time ago a large number of sample copies of the Wilson Bulletin was distributed, accompanied by order forms at the 50c. price. The Secretary has been informed that new subscriptions will be entered at the new price of $1.00 by the H. W. Wilson Co., 950-972, University Avenue, New York City, U.S.A.

Branch Capitations.

Branch capitations have been approved by Council on the normal basis, with the exception of the capitation for one Branch which applied for a smaller sum. Applications from the other Branches and Section, should they come forward, will be honoured immediately by the Hon. Secretary.

Whangarei Public Library.

Miss G. Scott-Baker, who received her early training in the Canterbury Public Library and was appointed three years ago to the charge of the Oamaru Athenaeum, has been appointed to succeed Miss May Bain as Librarian of the Whangarei Public Library. We wish her every success and happiness in the post.

Examination Results: Correction.

Miss M. T. Ennis has passed the Intermediate examination, not the Elementary Examination, as stated in our last issue.

New Zealand Council for Educational Research.

The fourth annual report of the Council for 1938 remarks that the original grant made by the Carnegie Corporation was for a period of five years, but that the Corporation had sent advice that the grants would be continued for a further five years. It is added that it is fully anticipated that during the second five year period additional sources of finance will be provided within New Zealand and that when the experimental years are over the results will ensure that research will find a permanent place in the system of education in this country. The resignation of the Director, Dr. C. E. Beeby, is recorded, and the appointment in his place of Mr. A. E. Campbell. To Dr. Beeby has fallen the work of establishing and consolidating the work of the Council, and his work is well known among those who have been occupied with various aspects of education as brilliant and comprehensive. In his new sphere as Assistant Director of Education, Dr. Beeby's influence will be no less. The Acting Director, Mr. H. C. McQueen, who occupied the Director's place in the interim before Mr. Campbell's appointment reported *inter alia* on the publications of the year, many of which have been reviewed in "NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES."

Christchurch Public Libraries.

"The Christchurch Press" in a leading article dated 16th March remarks that Mr. G. T. Alley, addressing the Town Clerks' Institute of New Zealand, commented on the example of the Dunedin Public Library which, having become a free public library, had abandoned the attempt to "satisfy the people who clamour for the current literary rubbish" and pursued the policy of building up a valuable stock of books. The leader writer's analysis of the situation is interesting and accurate. "The commercial libraries seem to have beaten the subscriber public libraries at a game they need no longer play, and the opportunity is now open—open wider than ever before—to make public libraries provide a public service worth paying for as such. The supply of a popular demand for books that last a day may be left to the commercial intelligence that has discovered and studied it." The writer goes on to give some little consideration of the real functions of public libraries and remarks that in Christchurch there is good reason to believe that with a little thrust and persuasion public support will be available. One significant paragraph is "A year or two ago misunderstanding of the proposal for a centralized library scheme was widespread. The suburban libraries were believed to be in danger of extinction under a scheme which could only strengthen them. This belief has weakened, if it has not wholly disappeared; and councillors who had always opposed rating for public library maintenance and development have moved towards the support of the principle." It is encouraging to receive news

that Christchurch is at last awakening to the potential value of a rate supported system of libraries. In so large an area, the consolidation of library services into a system of one central and several branch libraries rate supported and working towards the free ideal would result in far more economical operations from a cash point of view and a far more satisfactory service than can at present be supplied.

N.Z.L.A. Headquarters.

Work on the offices of the Association is proceeding. The rooms have been painted and a contract for the construction of the furniture has been let. There is separate provision for a duplicator. By about the 15th May the offices will be open for business. In the meantime enquiries should still be addressed Care of the Central Public Library, Box 1529, Wellington, C.1.

Conference.

The dates of Conference have definitely been fixed as from Tuesday, 20th February, to Friday, 23rd February, 1940. Intending delegates and bodies intending to send delegates are advised to secure their accommodation immediately, if possible, as Wellington will be full of visitors at that time. It is understood that a register of accommodation is being opened in connection with the Centennial, but it is very doubtful how far suitable vacancies for a period of a few days can be accepted at the last minute with only this as assistance.

Suggestions for the programme for the next conference are invited urgently; matters are to be finalized as soon as conveniently possible, and all members are urged to devote some thought to this question in order that Conference may be an outstanding success on this occasion.

A NATIONAL PLAN.

The American Library Association with its genius for organization, some time ago evolved a national plan for libraries a revision of which appears in the Bulletin of that Association for February of this year. The plan was revised and adopted by the Council of the Association on December 29, 1938. The preamble to the article in the Bulletin states that in the years which have elapsed since "A National Plan for Libraries" was first adopted by the American Library Association and published, dated January 1st, 1935, there had been many developments in library policies and many constructive advances in legislation, in finance and in other features affecting library service. In the judgment of the President and Executive Board, such developments called for a revision of the national plan already adopted. A committee composed of Messrs. Malcolm G. Wyer (chairman), Carl H. Milam, Ralph Munn and Louis R. Wilson was therefore appointed in September, 1937, to revise the plan for Council's consideration, and it was this revision which the Council approved at the end of 1938.

The plan covers the following headings: (1) The need for libraries; (2) library objectives; (3) our existing library system; (4) the State's responsibility; (5) public libraries; (6) school libraries; (7) university, college, teachers' college and junior college libraries; (8) libraries for special groups; (9) national responsibilities; (10) books and other library materials; (11) collection and preservation; (12) public documents, co-ordination of libraries; (13) personnel; (14) buildings and equipment; (15) internal organization; (16) library research—study of readers; (17) citizen participation in library advancement; (18) library planning committees.

The New Zealand librarian must be lost in admiration of the work that has been done along these lines. Co-ordination and systematization are goals which we have perpetually before us in this country, but the task of enunciating so comprehensive a national plan for libraries with objectives, even for a territory as small as New Zealand, is one which would cause a good deal of anxiety to any committee which we could set up. None the less, we have been able to do a great deal in the respect particularly of evolving an appreciation of our own objectives and of setting our own internal machinery in order. Without prejudice to what we have been able to accomplish, it must, however, be said that we could profit by the experience of the larger territory and give our full attention to the objectives which have been worked out and which, while perhaps differing slightly from those which we might enunciate for ourselves, do at any rate link up with the underlying principles of the work which both associations have undertaken.

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In view of the importance of precedent and of the value which carefully considered expert opinion should have for us, one or two sections of "A National Plan" are appended here, notably the section on library objectives, which is printed in full, and almost any phrase of which will repay careful consideration; and extracts from the section on the responsibility of the State. While this is still very much ahead of the onus which even recent New Zealand Governments have decided to assume, the section still shows developments in a country the problems of which have at times been similar to our own.

Library Objectives.

"The objectives of the library are to assemble and preserve books and related materials in organized collections and, through stimulation and guidance, to promote their use, to the end that children, young people, men and women may have opportunity and encouragement:

To educate themselves continuously.

To aid in the advancement of knowledge.

To improve their capacity for appreciation and production in cultural fields.

To improve their ability to participate usefully in activities in which they are involved as citizens.

To equip themselves, and keep themselves equipped, for efficient activity in useful occupations and practical affairs.

To keep abreast of progress in the sciences and other fields of knowledge.

To maintain the precious heritage of freedom of expression and a constructively critical attitude toward all public issues.

To make such use of leisure time as will promote personal happiness and social well-being.

"The process of assembling books for these objectives involves the command of experience and judgment, not only in the appraisal of their intrinsic literary qualities, but of their usefulness in relation to the needs and interests of the community and the intellectual and cultural levels of its members.

"The process of organizing requires training and proficiency in the principles and methods of librarianship and their practical application to the books to be organized and the varied groups of readers to be served.

"Library service is a social enterprise participating and co-operating with all other agencies and forces concerned with the welfare and progress of humanity. In this service one of the chief elements will be a personnel bringing to its task adequate education and training and a wide variety of special interests and aptitudes, but, above all, a broad and sympathetic comprehension of the expanding opportunities and their concomitant responsibilities in the administration of the library and its books as a source of power and enlightenment.

"A system of libraries which will serve these ends would seem to be, with our public school system, the minimum cultural equipment necessary for civilized living in America."

The State's Responsibility.

"The functions of the state library agency are:—

1. To develop effective state-wide public library service.
2. To develop a high quality personnel in the libraries of the state.
3. To provide a direct service of books, pamphlets and clippings, and visual material, and guidance in their use, to individuals, groups, and schools.
4. To provide a supplementary service of books, pamphlets and clippings, reading courses, and visual material for the libraries of the state.
5. To maintain a state reference and lending library for specialized service to government officials and departments, members of the legislature and the Supreme Court; to preserve and make available historical and related material; to exchange state documents with other states.
6. To encourage development of adequate library service in state educational institutions and in state hospitals and institutions for dependents and delinquents.
7. To collect statistics and other facts on the status of libraries and to compile and publish reports and bulletins.
8. To co-ordinate the library services of the state and to co-ordinate libraries with other educational services and agencies, so as to increase effectiveness and avoid waste and unnecessary duplication.
9. To co-operate with the library agencies of other states and with national library agencies.

"The state also has a responsibility for the development of effective state-wide school library service. This may be the function either of the state department of education or of the state library agency.

"In addition, each state institution of higher education must provide library service as part of its educational programme."

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REVIEWS.

"PUBLIC LIBRARY LIGHTING. VOL. II., ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING. PART I: GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PLANNING," by R. D. Hilton Smith, F.L.A. 1938. Alex. J. Philip, Gravesend. 7/-. 95p.

Mr. Hilton Smith's new manual covers the general principles of the subject, with a note on the quality of light, a discussion of the amount of illumination necessary and desirable, a short chapter on measuring illumination, and a section on general planning, equipment and maintenance. There is a select bibliography, and a list of "buildings to see." The analysis is carried out in some detail with comparative tables appended and the facts are carefully and clearly arranged. This continuation of Mr. Hilton Smith's "Public Library Lighting" covers some very important aspects, and is worth consideration by any librarian studying the question.

"THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC INDEX." 1938. H. W. Wilson Co., New York. 345p.

This is one of the volumes sold by the H. W. Wilson Co., on the service basis. It is the first cumulated annual volume, and provides references, conveniently arranged under standard subject headings, to some 14,000 bibliographies published during 1937 and 1938. The only systematic guide to these important reference tools available to-day, it does double service through its additional value as a catalogue that brings to light the significant material on a wide variety of subjects. Complete bibliographical entries point the way to many otherwise unindexed lists in books and periodicals, select lists available through inter-library loan, longer, more comprehensive lists published separately and new editions, supplements, reprints of general subject, universal, national and trade bibliographies.

Three quarterly numbers and a cumulated volume are published each year. There will also be a five year cumulated volume.

The book is attractively and clearly printed in the well-known H. W. Wilson style with bold Gill captions.

"BIBLIOGRAPHY OF COSTUME," compiled by Hilaire and Meyer Hiler and edited by Helen Grant Cushing. (1939). H. W. Wilson Co., New York. 951p. Sold on the service basis.

This is an extensive dictionary catalogue giving full bibliographical information on some eight thousand books on costume and adornment through the ages. Books on costumes of various countries and peoples are listed, including period and folk dress, uniforms, ecclesiastical costume, theatrical costume, etc. The material on each subject is divided by period and country, while in addition to book titles nearly 350 fashion periodicals are listed. Incorporated in the volume is an essay "Costumes and Ideologies," by Hilaire Hiler. A limited number of reprints in pamphlet form is available at 50c. each.

"A LIST OF FRENCH PROSE FICTION FROM 1700-1750," by S. Paul Jones. 1939. H. W. Wilson Co., New York. 150p. $3.50.

943 original prose titles are listed in two separate alphabets. Books are listed first chronologically, then by author and title, pseudonym, etc.

"READING. AN HISTORICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY," by Harold V. Bonny, F.L.A. Alex. J. Philip, Gravesend. 1939. 92p.

Mr. Bonny goes into the question of language and its origins, the history of reading, the reading process, aesthetics and reading, laughter and reading, tragedy and reading, the effects of reading, the development and art of reading. There is a great deal of common sense and a good deal of careful analysis in these pages. Little exists directly on the psychology of reading, but the author has succeeded in appending an imposing four-page bibliography of allied works to his book.

"THE HISTORY OF THE LEGAL DEPOSIT OF BOOKS THROUGHOUT THE BRITISH EMPIRE," by R. C. Barrington Partridge. 1938 Library Association, London. 18/- (15/- to Members of the L.A.)

This book is designed to appeal to all lawyers, bibliographers, authors, publishers, and students of English literature, for it is an attempt to fill a perhaps rather surprising gap in legal, literary and bibliographical literature. This volume deals with the story of the struggles of the publishers to secure relief from, or alternatively to evade, the duty of presenting free copies of all works published by them to a specified number of libraries. In the second part of his book Mr. Partridge has extended his

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researches to every part of the British Empire, including New Zealand. Mr. Partridge is to be congratulated on the great service he has rendered to those interested in the dissemination of books by bringing together in this book of 364 pages a mass of information hitherto widely scattered and difficult of access.

"THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD," JUNE, 1938. (Conference Supplement), Library Association, London. 3/6 (free to members).

This issue of "The Library Association Record" contains the papers which were read at the Portsmouth and Southsea Conference, 13th to 17th June, 1938, together with notes of discussions. The following items are of particular interest: "The Problem of Hospital Library Service for the County Library Authority," by A. S. Cooke, F.L.A. "Hospitals and the Smaller Libraries," by E. Gerard, A.L.A. "The Use of Periodicals in School Libraries," by H. Wilson Harris. "The Small Town Library: Problems and Suggestions," by J. J. Housby, F.L.A.

"The Library Association Record" has perhaps a larger circulation than any other library periodical. Each issue contains notes on library planning, instructional advice, reviews of books, and alternatively special sections for reference, lending and junior departments, branch and school libraries.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Sir,

Your remarks in recent issues on the subject of Public Libraries and of the functions of libraries in general have roused a corresponding anxiety in myself. I was at the Conference in Palmerston North and I fully agree with your remarks as to the evidence of deep thinking on the part of senior members of the profession with regard to just what our proper purpose is. If you were to bail up a man in the street and ask him his objective in life, in nine cases out of ten he would probably have to come to the uncomfortable conclusion that he had still not formulated one, and would return an evasive answer. That a librarian speaking for his library should be in the same position would not be a particularly happy state of affairs.

In the early days the only way in which books could be made available to the public, apart from sale, was through the agency of institutions which depended largely on subscriptions for their upkeep, and which fulfilled, more or less, the functions of Public Libraries.

To-day the position is different. Books can be got from two separate sources, the first, profit making, the second, of the nature of a public service. This has meant to many public libraries, and should have meant to all, that it has been possible for librarians to concentrate on the real functions of libraries as opposed to the supply of ephemeral fiction which has little value outside what has come to be known as "escape." Public Libraries should by now conform more nearly to the ideals contemplated by the Munn-Barr Report which, it should be remembered, was published before the advent of the mushroom growth of shop libraries: that is to say, they should be occupied with cultural help, vocational help and recreational help to the community; the recreational factor coming only third and the principal emphasis being placed on the betterment of the individual, the broadening of his interests, and the work of equipping him for his daily work, and helping him in carrying it out.

The librarian is beginning to understand this. The librarians of free libraries for some time past have had a clear perception of their proper functions. The public librarian, however, in many cases, is still prone to judge results by issues; 10 issues of a worthless novel balancing on any table of statistics a single issue of a valuable but heavy work. This is not to be wondered at; librarians have been quoting issue statistics to committee members for so long past that they have come to be hypnotised by them themselves, just as the vendor of a patent medicine finally comes to believe his own patter.

Once the public mind has been directed to the proper functions of libraries and has come to grasp the objectives as set out in the Munn-Barr Report, not as an ideal to be aimed at, but as an accomplished fact, library work in New Zealand will be coming into its own. The Public Library as a factor in adult education, in many places is little more than a cypher,

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although a strong tendency towards the true work which it should be carrying out is evident in some places. I do commend the mental fermentation to which you draw attention in your recent leading article and I cannot help feeling that it will not be long before the Public Library is recognised as much as an agency for the supply of facts for the people needing them, for the fostering of culture in those who feel that the field of their interest could be widened, as in the supply of dope for light fiction addicts. Yours, etc.—QUO VADIS?

URGENT

Conveners of Committees who wish to bring reports before the next meeting of Council are asked to let the Secretary have them as soon as possible so that they may be circulated to Branches.

BOOK LIST

No annotations are given where titles are sufficiently self-explanatory, or for lighter fiction by well-known authors. All prices shown are published prices.

PHILOSOPHY:

Jepson, R. W.—Teach yourself to think. English universities press. 2/- 1938 160.
Logic explained for the layman.

Maritain, J.—True humanism. Tr. Bles. 10/6 1939 149.9
Attempts to frame a social philosophy for the present times, which will establish a Christian social order.

RELIGION:

Cattell, R. B.—Psychology and the religious quest. Nelson. 2/- 1938 201.
Brief analysis of the psychology of religion.

Golding, L.—The Jewish question. Penguin books ltd. 6d. 1938 296.

SOCIOLOGY:

Borkenau, F.—The Communist international. Faber 12/6 1938 335.4
Readable history of the Comintern by one who considers betrayed by nationalism.

Farjeon, J. J.—The compleat smuggler. Harrap. 10/6 1939 343.
History of smuggling, chiefly in Britain.

Gloag, J.—Word warfare. Nicholson & Watson. 3/6 1939 301.15
Comparison of English and German methods of propaganda.

Martindale, H.—Women servants of the state. Allen & Unwin.
Treats of women in the British civil service, with sidelights on the history of the civil service in general.

Silone, I.—The school for dictators. Cape. 8/6 1939 335.6
An attack on Fascism in the form of a satiric dialogue.

LANGUAGE:

Partridge, E.—The world of words. Routledge. 7/6 1938 420.
Introduction to language in general and English and American in particular.

NATURAL SCIENCE:

Kermack, W. O. and Eggleton, P.—The stuff we're made of. Arnold. 7/6 1938 574.19

APPLIED SCIENCE:

Groves, E. R. and Groves, G. H.—Sex in childhood. Muller. 5/- 1938 612.6
Discusses the development of wholesome sex attitudes in the child. Written in non-technical language for parents.

Hincks, H.—Modern soft toys and how to make them. Evans. 3/- 1938 689.

Tangye, N.—Teach yourself to fly. English universities press. 2/- 1938 629.13

FINE ARTS:

Bardeche, M. and Brasslach, R.—History of the film. Allen & Unwin. 18/- 1938 791.4
Lively account of the growth of motion pictures, with analyses of individual stars.

Goffin, P.—Stage lighting for amateurs. Muller. 5/- 1938 792.

LITERATURE:

Caudwell, C.—Studies in a dying culture. Lane. 10/6 1939 820.
Marxist criticism of such writers as Shaw, Wells, Lawrence, etc.

Edwards, E. D., ed.—The dragon book. Hodge. 7/6 1938 895.1
Anthology of Chinese lore, poems, anecdotes, tales, etc.

Macdonnell, A. G.—What next, Baby? or, Shall I go to Tanganyika? Macmillan. 3/6 1939 822.
Amusing play satirising the film industry.

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TRAVEL:

Domville-Fife, C. W.—This is Germany. Seeley-Service. 12/6 1939 914.3
Sympathetic survey of Nazi Germany.

Godsell, P. H.—Red hunters of the snows. Hale. 12/6 1938 917.2
An official of the Hudson Bay Company recounts his experiences among the Indians of North America.

Schweitzer, A.—From my African notebook. Tr. Allen & Unwin. 5/- 1939 916.
Readable sketches of life among the natives of Africa.

Victor, P. E.—My Eskimo life. H. Hamilton. 12/6 1938 919.8
Diary of a French scientist who spent a winter in an Eskimo hut.

BIOGRAPHY:

Baxter, A.—We will not cease. Gollancz. 7/6 1939
Autobiography of one of the New Zealand conscientious objectors who were shanghaied to the front.

Dolin, A.—Ballet go round. M. Joseph. 15/- 1938
Autobiography of a ballet dancer.

Whitaker, M.—And so did I. Cape. 7/6 1939
Charmingly inconsequential autobiography.

HISTORY:

Abel, T.—Why Hitler came into power. Prentice-Hall. $2.75 1939 943.
Includes accounts by Nazis of the growth of their political beliefs.

Antonius, G.—The Arab awakening. H. Hamilton. 15/- 1938 953.

Bertram, J.—North China front. Macmillan. 15/- 1939 951.
A New Zealand Rhodes scholar's experiences with the Eighth route army.

Ekins, H. R. & Wright, T.—China fights for her life. Whittlesey. $2.75 1938 951.
Popular, journalistic survey of Chinese history during the last fifteen years.

Joesten, J.—Denmark's day of doom. Gollancz. 7/6 1939 948.9
Maintains that Denmark is destined to become the victim of German aggression. Partisan, but presents an interesting case.

FICTION:

Dataller, R.—Steel saraband. Nelson 8/6
Written round the industrial North of England.

Frankau, P.—The devil we know. Heinemann. 8/-
The struggles of a sensitive Jew against the latent anti-semitism of English society.

Gibbs, Sir P. H.—This nettle, danger. Hutchinson. 8/6
Written round the September crisis.

Hauser, H.—Last port of call. A Barker. 8/6
Story of a four-masted sailing ship on a voyage from Copenhagen to Australia.

Home, M.—July at Fritham. Rich & Cowan 7/6
Light novel about the English aristocracy.

Lane, R. W.—Free land. Longmans. 7/6
Pioneering days in America.

Maugham, W. Somerset—Christmas holiday. Heinemann 7/6

Nichols, Beverley.—Revue. Cape. 7/6
Witty back-stage novel.

Sabatini, R.—The sword of Islam. Hutchinson 8/6

Saroyan, W.—The trouble with tigers. Faber & Faber 7/6
Short stories by a brilliant and original writer.

Thompson, S.—The adventure of Christopher Columin. Heinemann 7/6
Farcical story of an American business man in England.

Von Harsanyi, 2.—The star gazer. Routledge 8/6
Written round the life of Galileo.

Wells, H. G.—The holy terror. M. Joseph. 8/6
Another vision of the Utopian future, with sidelights on the less Utopian present.

All questions relating to the *Activities of the Association* should be addressed to JOSEPH NORRIE, HON. SECRETARY, NEW ZEALAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 1529, WELLINGTON, C.1.; while questions with regard to the *Bulletin* should be addressed to STUART PERRY, HON. EDITOR, "NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES," P.O. BOX 1529, WELLINGTON, C.1.

It is asked that in remitting money to the Association, *exchange* should be added to *cheques*, and that cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the SECRETARY, NEW ZEALAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, *and not to any individual by name.*

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